

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An article conveying apparatus ~~for~~ for conveying articles between a plurality of article storage sections for storing therein the articles and a predetermined entry and exit port, the apparatus comprising:

a running truck body formed ~~of a square cylinder~~ from a rectangular pipe having four flat sides that define said rectangular pipe, said truck body being movable and guided along a track laid along the article storage sections, to run horizontally in a longitudinal direction and being oriented such that two of said flat sides are vertically oriented;

a platform provided with a transfer device for transferring articles; and

raising and lowering poles, each of said poles formed ~~of a square cylinder~~ from a rectangular pipe having four flat sides, [[and]] said raising and lowering poles guiding and supporting said platform to be capable of freely ascending and descending, wherein the ~~cylinder~~ rectangular pipe forming said raising and lowering pole is connected, at its lower end part, perpendicularly to a ~~longitudinal side of the cylinder~~ rectangular pipe forming said running truck body, wherein a flat side of said pole engages a vertically oriented flat side of said truck body and said pole extends vertically and perpendicularly to said truck body.

2. **(currently amended)** An article conveying apparatus for conveying articles between a plurality of article storage sections for storing therein the articles and a predetermined entry and exit port, the apparatus comprising:

[[a]] an elongated running truck body that ~~[[runs]]~~ is movable in a longitudinal direction along a lower track laid along the article storage sections;

a platform provided with a transfer device for transferring articles;

an upper truck body guided along an upper track laid on a ceiling to face toward the lower track; and

raising and lowering poles for guiding and supporting said platform to be capable of freely ascending and descending,

wherein each of said raising and lowering poles has a lower end connected to a ~~longitudinal~~ vertical side surface of said running truck body and an upper end connected perpendicularly to a ~~longitudinal~~ vertical side surface of said upper truck body, each of said raising and lowering poles being vertically oriented.

3. **(original)** The article conveying apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said upper truck body and said running truck body are each located on the same side of said raising and lowering poles.

4. **(currently amended)** The article conveying apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a ~~laterally central position~~ centerline of said raising and lowering poles is substantially a ~~laterally central position~~ centerline of the article conveying apparatus ~~running in the longitudinal~~ when viewed along the direction of travel of said article conveying apparatus.

5. **(currently amended)** An article conveying apparatus for conveying articles between a plurality of article storage sections for storing therein the articles and a predetermined entry and exit port, the apparatus comprising:

[[a]] an elongated running truck body that ~~[[runs]]~~ is movable horizontally in a longitudinal direction along a track laid along the article storage sections;

a platform provided with a transfer device for transferring articles; and

raising and lowering poles, each connected perpendicularly to said running truck body, and guiding and supporting said platform to be capable of freely ascending and descending, wherein said running truck body has a ~~longitudinal~~ vertically oriented side surface; said vertically oriented side surface being connected to a lower end of each of said raising and lowering poles, and wherein said running truck body is supported by wheels provided in alignment with the respective positions where said raising and lowering poles are connected to the running truck body.

6. **(currently amended)** An article conveying apparatus for conveying articles between a plurality of article storage sections for storing therein the articles and a predetermined entry and exit port, the apparatus comprising:

[[a]] an elongated running truck body having distal ends, said running truck body being horizontally oriented and ~~that runs~~ movable horizontally in a longitudinal direction along a track laid along the article storage sections;

a platform provided with a transfer device for transferring articles;

a ~~longitudinal~~ pair of raising and lowering poles connected perpendicularly to a ~~longitudinal~~ vertical side surface of said running truck body at ~~respective~~ the distal ends of said

running truck body, and guiding and supporting said platform to be capable of freely ascending and descending;

a pair of raising and lowering ropes each rope having one end connected to an upper part of ~~a corresponding longitudinal side of~~ said platform~~[[, and]]~~ for suspending and supporting said platform and another end connected to said platform in the vicinity of the center of the platform; and

a driving wheel for feeding and winding said pair of raising and lowering ropes, ~~wherein~~ said raising and lowering ropes ~~constituting the pair are~~ each being guided from the upper part of ~~the corresponding longitudinal side of~~ said platform to the vicinity of the center of said running truck body via said driving wheel, ~~and has the other end connected to the vicinity of the center of said platform.~~

7. **(original)** The article conveying apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a tension setting device is located in said platform to set a tension of said pair of raising and lowering ropes.

8. **(currently amended)** The article conveying apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

wheels supporting said running truck body;

a ~~running~~ drive device for driving said wheels supporting said running truck body ~~[[is]],~~ said drive device being disposed ~~[[at]]~~ on a longitudinal vertically oriented flat side of said running truck body that is opposite ~~[[the]]~~ a vertically oriented flat side ~~[[at]]~~ on which said raising and lowering poles are connected ~~to the running truck body.~~

9. **(currently amended)** The article conveying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an raising and lowering drive device for raising and lowering said platform is located ~~at a latitudinal~~ on said vertically oriented flat sides of said running truck body.

10. **(currently amended)** The article conveying apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising~~ comprising a control panel for the article conveying apparatus having at least one swinging door provided to face ~~[[in the]] one longitudinal direction has sides extending in the longitudinal direction~~ end of said truck body, and is located said control panel being located such that outside the ~~corresponding one of~~ said raising and lowering poles are to one side thereof.

11. **(currently amended)** The article conveying apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising~~ comprising a contact surface ~~that comes into contact~~ for engagement with a shock absorber located at a terminal end of the track, said contact surface disposed along one of said vertically oriented flat side surface ~~is provided at a longitudinal side of each end of said running truck body and inside the~~ corresponding set back from one of the longitudinal ends of the running truck body.